

Message Text

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PAGE 01 STATE 017854
ORIGIN AF-10

INFO OCT-01 EUR-12 ISO-00 IO-14 NEA-10 CIAE-00 DODE-00
PM-05 H-02 INR-07 L-03 NSAE-00 PA-02 PRS-01
SP-02 SS-15 ACDA-12 TRSE-00 NSCE-00 SSO-00
USIE-00 INRE-00 /096 R

DRAFTED BY AF/P:BARUSSELL:MR
APPROVED BY AF/P:RWHOLLIDAY
-----112016 232323Z /64

O 232229Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
TO ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY BONN IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY LONDON IMMEDIATE
AMEMBASSY PARIS IMMEDIATE

UNCLAS STATE 017854

E.O. 11652: N/A

TAGS:PFOR

SUBJECT: DEPARTMENT OF STATE NOON BRIEFING JANUARY 23, 1978

FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE DEPARTMENT NOON BRIEFING
JANUARY 23, 1978:

Q: ARE YOU IN A POSITION TO TELL US WHAT PRESIDENT SADAT HAS
REQUESTED?

A: NO. AS A MATTER OF FACT, I'M NOT SURE THAT THERE IS A
SPECIFIC SHOPPING LIST. AS A MATTER OF FACT, I'M SURE THAT
I'M NOT AWARE OF A SPECIFIC SHOPPING LIST FROM HIM.

Q: YES. HODDING, HE MADE THE POINT THAT THE F-5 WOULD BE
DIRECTED MORE WITH THE HORN IN MIND THAN ISRAEL. COULD YOU
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ADDRESS THAT ISSUE?

A: I THINK THAT WHAT I HEARD AT LEAST ONE OFFICIAL SAY AT
ONE POINT ON OUR SIDE WAS THAT HE WAS INTERESTED IN SECURITY
NEEDS WHICH ENCOMPASSED RATHER THE WHOLE AREA AND TOOK IN-
TO CONSIDERATION A WIDER AREA EVEN THAN THE NORTHERN AFRICA.
BUT I WOULD REALLY HAVE TO TELL YOU THAT I AM IN NO POSITION

TO BE REALLY SPECIFIC ABOUT IT.

Q: HODDING, SOMETHING MORE TOPICAL, THE MEETING ON THE HORN OF AFRICA RAISES SOME QUESTION ABOUT WHAT AMERICAN INTENTIONS ARE IN THAT AREA. COULD YOU, FIRST OF ALL, TELL US WHAT YOU HAVE ABOUT THAT MEETING, AND ALSO UPDATE THAT INFORMATION ABOUT SOVIET INVOLVEMENT THERE.

A: I DON'T HAVE AN UPDATE. WAIT A MINUTE. LET ME GO BACK. ON THAT SPECIFICALLY, STARTING WITH YOUR QUESTIONS, IN RELATION TO THE MEETING OF THE FIVE POWERS OVER THE WEEK-END -- SATURDAY?-- THERE WASN'T ANY DECISION TAKEN TO HOLD ANOTHER MEETING SPECIFICALLY ABOUT THE HORN, THOUGH I EXPECT THE MATTER MIGHT BE RAISED IN FUTURE CONSULTATIONS WITH THESE EUROPEAN ALLIES, THOUGH NOT NECESSARILY A MEET-LIKE LAST SATURDAY'S WHICH GREW OUT OF THE PRESENCE OF REPRESENTATIVES IN THE UNITED STATES FOR OTHER REASONS, WITH PARTICULAR PEOPLE.

INSOFAR AS ANY UPDATE ON SOVIET ACTIVITY IN ETHIOPIA, I DON'T HAVE ANY NEWER KINDS OF FIGURES TO OFFER YOU.

Q: DO YOU HAVE FIGURES ABOUT OTHER TROOPS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES OR ADVISERS FROM OTHER COUNTRIES INVOLVED THERE, FOR EXAMPLE, YEMENIS? THIS MAY HAVE COME OUT IN THE LAST WEEK. I DON'T KNOW.

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A: I THINK PROBABLY IT WENT THROUGH SOME SESSIONS, BUT I DON'T HAVE ANY BETTER FIGURES ON IT THAN WHAT WE HAVE ISSUED IN THE PAST IN FRONT OF ME.

Q: THERE WAS A REPORT LAST WEEK ABOUT CUBANS BEING INVOLVED IN HELPING THE RHODESIAN GUERRILLAS, THE EXTERNALLY-BASED GUERRILLA FORCE.

A: DO YOU REMEMBER SPECIFICALLY WHERE OR HOW?

Q: MOZAMBIQUE.

VOICE: ZAMBIA.

A: ZAMBIA? O.K. LET ME TAKE THAT QUESTION BECAUSE AGAIN I DON'T HAVE A STATUS REPORT RIGHT NOW. O.K.?

Q: WE'VE BEEN TALKING ABOUT CUBANS AND SOVIETS IN ETHIOPIA, AND THERE ARE REPORTS ABOUT EAST GERMANS, GERMANY, AND OTHERS. COULD YOU TAKE THAT QUESTION?

A: ALL RIGHT. I WILL TAKE A GENERAL QUESTION ON THAT SUBJECT, AND I'LL TRY TO MAKE THIS BROAD ENOUGH TO ENCOMPASS THE QUESTION OF WHAT FOREIGN FORCES WE HAVE REPORTS ON

BATTLING IN THAT COUNTRY OTHER THAN THE OBVIOUS COMBATTANTS, RIGHT?

Q: EXCUSE ME, WHICH COUNTRY ARE YOU TALKING ABOUT?

A: ETHIOPIA.

Q: JUST IN ETHIOPIA? I THOUGHT YOU WERE GETTING INTO A GENERAL RUNDOWN HERE OF CUBAN FORCES --

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VOICE: IF YOU CAN GET THAT.

Q: I WOULD ENCOURAGE THAT IF WE CAN GET A RE-DO ON THAT, WHICH WOULD ALSO INCLUDE, I WOULD LIKE TO ASK, CUBAN FORCES, ADVISORS IN YEMEN, SOUTH YEMEN --

A: YES.

Q: -- BECAUSE IT DOES INVOLVE ETHIOPIA INDIRECTLY THROUGH ACROSS THE RED SEA, AND IT HAS A STRATEGIC RELATIONSHIP.

A: O.K.

Q: DO YOU HAVE ANY HOPE FOR THE DEVELOPMENTS IN OUR PERSUADING MR. CASTRO TO DIMINISH HIS AFRICAN EXPEDITIONARY FORCES, OR WHAT PROGNOSIS IS HERE FOR THE FUTURE OTHER THAN EXPRESSING OUR DEEP CONCERN AND OPENING TRADE WITH CUBA, AND SO FORTH? THAT DOESN'T SEEM TO BE VERY DEEP CONCERN, HODDING, AND I WAS WONDERING HOW YOU THINK IT IS GOING TO HELP IN THE FUTURE.

A: WE ARE NOT OPENING TRADE WITH CUBA, BUT I DON'T HAVE A PROGNOSIS FOR YOU. WE HAVE EXPRESSED OUR CONCERN, AS YOU KNOW.

Q: YES, BUT NOTHING SEEMS TO HAVE HAPPENED EXCEPT THAT MR. CASTRO KEEPS POURING MORE TROOPS IN AND MORE EQUIPMENT.

A: UNFORTUNATELY. WE EXPRESS OUR CONCERN ABOUT A NUMBER OF SUBJECTS RANGING FROM THIS TO THAT, BUT THESE THINGS DON'T ALWAYS NECESSARILY SEEM TO HAPPEN.

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Q: RIGHT. DOES THE SECRETARY THINK THAT THIS IS A
SOMEWHAT USELESS EXPRESSION OF CONCERN, GIVEN THE RESULTS?

A: NO. I THINK THAT IT IS ABSOLUTELY NECESSARY THAT WE
MAKE OUR POSITION VERY CLEAR ON THE SUBJECT. THE FACT
THAT WE ARE NOT ABLE, AS IT TURNS OUT, TO TREAT ALL

NATIONS AS PUPPETS, OR ANY NATIONS AS PUPPETS ON A STRING
RESPONDING TO EVERYTHING THAT WE SAY, MAY OR MAY NOT
BE GOOD, DEPENDING ON YOUR POINT OF VIEW, IS CERTAINLY
THE FACT OF THE MATTER.
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PAGE 01 STATE 017854
ORIGIN EUR-12

INFO OCT-02 ISO-00 /013 R

66011
DRAFTED BY: EUR/CE:VGRAY:DHT
APPROVED BY:EUR/CE:WWOESSNER
-----019725 260906Z /23
R 232229Z JAN 78
FM SECSTATE WASHDC
INFO AMEMBASSY BERLIN 0000

UNCLAS STATE 017854

FOLLOWING REPEAT STATE 017854 ACTION ALL AFRICAN DIPLOMATIC POSTS
BONN LONDON PARIS 23 JAN

QUOTE: UNCLAS STATE 017854

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Message Attributes

Automatic Decaptioning: X
Capture Date: 01 jan 1994
Channel Indicators: n/a
Current Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Concepts: TEXT, DEPARTMENTAL ADMINISTRATION, PRESS CONFERENCES
Control Number: n/a
Copy: SINGLE
Draft Date: 23 jan 1978
Decaption Date: 01 jan 1960
Decaption Note:
Disposition Action: n/a
Disposition Approved on Date:
Disposition Case Number: n/a
Disposition Comment:
Disposition Date: 01 jan 1960
Disposition Event:
Disposition History: n/a
Disposition Reason:
Disposition Remarks:
Document Number: 1978STATE017854
Document Source: CORE
Document Unique ID: 00
Drafter: BARUSSELL:MR
Enclosure: n/a
Executive Order: N/A
Errors: N/A
Expiration:
Film Number: D780034-0607
Format: TEL
From: STATE
Handling Restrictions: n/a
Image Path:
ISecure: 1
Legacy Key: link1978/newtext/t19780132/aaaabbhq.tel
Line Count: 375
Litigation Code IDs:
Litigation Codes:
Litigation History:
Locator: TEXT ON-LINE, ON MICROFILM
Message ID: 40f724e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Office: ORIGIN AF
Original Classification: UNCLASSIFIED
Original Handling Restrictions: n/a
Original Previous Classification: n/a
Original Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Page Count: 7
Previous Channel Indicators: n/a
Previous Classification: n/a
Previous Handling Restrictions: n/a
Reference: n/a
Retention: 0
Review Action: RELEASED, APPROVED
Review Content Flags:
Review Date: 16 feb 2005
Review Event:
Review Exemptions: n/a
Review Media Identifier:
Review Release Date: n/a
Review Release Event: n/a
Review Transfer Date:
Review Withdrawn Fields: n/a
SAS ID: 3729393
Secure: OPEN
Status: NATIVE
Subject: DEPARTMENT OF STATE NOON BRIEFING JANUARY 23, 1978 FOLLOWING ARE EXCERPTS FROM THE DEPARTMENT NOON BRIEFING JANUARY 23, 1978
TAGS: PFOR, SOPN, US, XA
To: AF POSTS BONN MULTIPLE
Type: TE
vdkgvwkey: odb://SAS/SAS.dbo.SAS_Docs/40f724e1-c288-dd11-92da-001cc4696bcc
Review Markings:
Sheryl P. Walter
Declassified/Released
US Department of State
EO Systematic Review
20 Mar 2014
Markings: Sheryl P. Walter Declassified/Released US Department of State EO Systematic Review 20 Mar 2014